

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00111 191102Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 ARA-06

/090 W

----- 032785

R 171153Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2642

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 0111T

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY CAPETOWN

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PINS, AO

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN UNITA-HELD TERRITORY OF ANGOLA

1. UNITA CHARTER PLANE MADE TWO ROUND TRIPS BETWEEN HUAMBO AND LUSAKA JAN 14/15 RETURNING DOEZEN OR SO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WHO HAD SPENT PAST TEN DAYS INSIDE UNITA-HELD TERRITORY. PRESS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED BY UNITA MILITARY COMMANDER SAMUEL CHIWALE ON EXTENSIVE TOUR WHICH INCLUDED VISITS TO LUSO, RIDE ON BENGUELA RAILWAY EASTWARDS TO LUMEJE, AND TRAVEL AS FAR SOUTH AS GAGO COUTINHO. PRESS WAS NOT TAKEN THIS TIME TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00111 191102Z

BENGUELA OR LOBITO. FROM OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL

OF THESE RETURNING JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING HILKINSON OF UPI, LAMBERT OF L.A. TIMES, AND NORTHROP OF WALL STREET JOURNAL, WE DISTILLED FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

(A) NEWSMEN WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH HIGH MORALE AND DEGREE OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR SAVIMBI WHICH THEY OBSERVED IN UNITA TERRITORIES. THEY HAD FEELING THIS SUPPORT IS GENUINE AND THAT THEY WERE NOT JUST BEING ROUTED THROUGH "POTEMKIN VILLAGES." SOME ALSO COMMENTED APPROVINGLY ON DEGREE OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY ORGANIZATION EXHIBITED BY UNITA CADRES WITH WHICH THEY CAME IN CONTACT. ALL PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH POPULARITY AND CAPABILITY OF CHIWALE.

(B) SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE WAS NOTICEABLE AND IN SOME AREAS HEAVY. UNITA MILITARY PERSONNEL MADE NO BONES ABOUT THEIR COOPERATION AND EVEN FRATERNIZATION WITH SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL, SHOWING NEWSMEN CANDID SNAPSHOTS OF UNITA AND SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS POSING TOGETHER. AT ONE POINT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS, DISTINGUISHED BY DISTINCTIVE BROWN UNIFORMS, WERE SEEN GUARDING OR EXAMINING A RAILROAD BRIDGE. REPORTERS DID HAVE IMPRESSION THAT UNITA CONDUCTORS DELIBERATELY SOUGHT STEER THEM AWAY FROM SOUTH AFRICANS. IN ONE CASE US TV CAMERAMAN (BRANNIGAN OF ABC-TV) WHO HAD FILMED PASSING SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY CONVOY WAS LATER VISITED IN HOTEL ROOM BY UNITA OFFICIALS WHO CONFISCATED FILM.

(C) NEWSMEN PERMITTED MEET THREE CUBAN PRISONERS OF WAR BUT NEITHER SAW NOR HEARD OF ANY SOVIETS HAVING BEEN KILLED OR CAPTURED BY ANTI-MPLA TROOPS.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. TIMES OF ZAMBIA JANUARY 16 PUBLISHED REPORT BY ITS REPORTER TREVOR GRUNDY JUST BACK FROM ANGOLA. GRUNDY CONCLUDES MPLA AND UNITA ARE PREPARING FOR BITTER AND CRUCIAL MILITARY CONFRONTATION THAT MIGHT DECIDE FUTURE OF ANGOLA. ONE THOUSAND HEAVILY ARMED MPLA TROOPS, BACKED BY 500 CUBANS WITH SOVIET ADVISORS, ARE ADVANCING TOWARD UNITA-HELD LUSO. PRESENCE OF BOTH SAVIMBI AND CHIWALE DEMONSTRATES IMPORTANCE UNITA REGARDS COMING BATTLE. GRUNDY QUOTES UNIDENTIFIED "MILITARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 00111 191102Z

SOURCES" AS SAYING UNITA FORCES "WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY INCLUDE REGULAR SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS" ARE WELL PREPARED, WELL SUPPLIED AND WELL DISCIPLINED FOLLOWING MORE THAN TWO MONTHS OF PREPARATION, BUT LACK FIREPOWER EQUIVALENT TO MPLA'S 122 MM ROCKETS. UNITA WAS ALSO IN PROCESS OF MOVING MEN UP PAST LUMEJE TOWARD TEXEIRA DE SOUSA AND WERE LESS THAN 16 KM FROM THAT TOWN. ALSO UNITA TROOPS WERE MOVING NORTH ALONG COAST FROM NOVA REDONDO TO PORTO AMBOIM. FIGHTING CONTINUED BE

HEAVY AROUND MUSSENDE, MIDWAY BETWEEN HUAMBO AND MALANJE.
GRUNDY NOTES HOWEVER THAT UNITA LEADERS, WHILE EXPRESSING
CONFIDENCE IN VICTORY, WERE NEVERTHELESS CONCERNED THAT COLLAPSE
OF FNLA FRONT IN NORTH WOULD PERMIT RELEASE OF ADDITIONAL MPLA
FORCES TO LUSO OR MALANJE FROM WHENCE THEY COULD THREATEN HUAMBO.
COMMENT: GRUNDY DOES NOT GIVE DATES HE WAS IN THESE PLACES SO
INFORMATION IN HIS ARTICLE MAY ALREADY BE OUTDATED AND OVERTAKEN
BY EVENTS.
WILKOWSKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION MEDIA, JOURNALISTS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LUSAKA00111
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760019-0724
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760147/aaaabpmd.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN UNITA-HELD TERRITORY OF ANGOLA
TAGS: MILI, PINS, OTRA, AO, UNITA, FNLA, (CHIWALE, SAMUEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006